

Lewis Tappan, Jan. 16, 1844

New York, Jan. 16/44.

7 Dear Brother Phelps,

Union Miss. Society.

Yours of the 8th was duly received. I knew such employment would be pleasant to you if you approved the principles. Now some of yr objections can be removed I think. Perhaps you are under some misapprehension respecting the objects aimed at by the Union Miss. Soc. You knew its origin - the transfer to this city - and its present officers. We do not expect that the various denominations of Christians, as collective bodies, will send us their money, leave the selection of missionaries & the conduct of them to us - neither do we wish it. But we expect that many Christian abolitionists throughout the country will send donations, sometimes accompanied with specific directions & sometimes leaving the appropriation to the discretion of the Ex. Com. Old Mr. Retch of New Bedford, a Quaker, sent me \$50 for the Florida mission. In this way the fences that separate denominations will be lowered, if not broken down. A kind feeling among Christians of different denominations will be kindled. This will, to some extent, be "union", tho' your remarks as to the improbability of amalgamating are just, & I am inclined to think according to the will of God, certainly agreeable to His permission. Whether Christians will ever have a region ever to associate together under one banner is another question. As a Com., being of different denominations, we can solicit money with confidence, because we will not be sectarian. We should prefer that the donors should select their missionaries, & leave to us the transmission of money & the reception & transmission of intelligence, but when we may be in funds to select missionaries we shall be careful not to send men of clashing views to the same places. I shall be glad to know if these suggestions change your views at all, and what changes in the Socy would make it wholly unexceptionable to you.

I will now mention a remarkable fact. The last meeting of the Ex. Com. was held ~~on the 10th~~ ^{on the 11th}. After praying & talking over the subject

Mrs. Jocelyn & myself stated why we thought the time had arrived when we should appoint an actuary or secretary. The matter met the views of the brethren, but said they we have only \$90 in the Treasury. However they ^{appointed a Com. and} directed them to write to you (which we have done) and ascertain your views, if we could agree up on a salary, &c. The next morning a young man from New Haven (in the Theological School) came to my office to talk over the matter of making a donation to the Union Miss. Soc., and after ten minutes conversation put into my hands \$1000! How little faith we had exercised. Doubtless there are very many whose feelings are extended in anti-slavery missions (if this be the proper name for them) who, if enlightened, ~~would~~ contribute largely.

I hope to hear from you again soon.

Mr Benedict says if you will come he will pay \$50 a year.

I do not know anything ~~new~~ ^{new} abt. ^{can} do more important than to arouse the chb. on the subject of having missions ~~disconnected~~ with Slavery. If in this way we can alarm - rightly alarm - the Missy Boards - induce them to examine the subject - and do their duty, about an immense service will be done the cause of freedom & the cause of christianity! Think of these things & examine the subject prayerfully, before you absolutely decline.

We have another object in view - it is to send the gospel to the poor slaves in this land, in some way; to arouse the Convention to supply them with copies of the Scriptures; to have teachers prepared to teach them when emancipated. Shall there not be a Society or Com. to feel for the ^{best} spiritual interests of the heathen, at home & abroad? Reflect, dear brother, on all the ramifications into which the subject may open - the opportunities of usefulness - and may you be directed by wisdom from on high.

Truly, & affectionately yours
Lewis Tappan.